

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of presenting information regarding products, suppliers and offeror to customers in a virtual shopping mall comprising:

5 providing a map of a virtual shopping mall, said map having a coordinate system associated with positions within the shopping mall;

assigning a customer an initial position having a set of coordinates within the shopping mall;

10 presenting at least one multimedia object to a customer indexed to said initial position;

updating said initial position to a subsequent position responsive to a position change command from a customer; and

presenting at least one multimedia object to a customer indexed to said subsequent position.

15 2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said steps of presenting multimedia object comprise presenting a visual image of a mall or store interior.

3. The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said steps of presenting a visual image of a mall or store interior further comprise the steps of:

20 providing a customer-selectable hot spot within said visual image; and

updating said customer's position responsive to selection of said hot spot.

4. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said steps of presenting multimedia objects comprise presenting a sound clip representative of background sound within a mall or store interior.
5. A computer readable medium encoded with software causing a computer to perform the following actions:
 - provide a map of a virtual shopping mall, said map having a coordinate system associated with positions within the shopping mall;
 - assign a customer an initial position having a set of coordinates within the shopping mall;
 - 10 present at least one multimedia object to a customer indexed to said initial position;
 - update said initial position to a subsequent position responsive to a position change command from a customer; and
 - 15 present at least one multimedia object to a customer indexed to said subsequent position.
6. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said software for performing the action of presenting a multimedia object comprises software for presenting a visual image of a mall or store interior.
7. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said software for presenting a visual image of a mall or store interior further comprises software for performing the actions of:
 - 20 provide a customer-selectable hot spot within said visual image; and

update said customer's position responsive to selection of said hot spot.

8. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said software for presenting a multimedia object comprises software for presenting a sound clip representative of background sound within a mall or store interior.

5 9. A shopping mall browser comprising:

10 a mall map display for showing a customer a geographical organization of a virtual mall contents, said map having a coordinate system associated with positions within the virtual shopping mall;

15 a customer position initializer for assigning an initial customer having a set of coordinates within the shopping mall;

20 a position tracker for updating said initial position to a subsequent position responsive to a position change command from a customer; and a multimedia object presenter for presenting at least one multimedia object to a customer indexed to said initial position or said subsequent position.

10. The shopping mall browser as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said multimedia object presenter is adapted to present a visual image of a mall or store interior.

11. The shopping mall browser as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said multimedia object presenter is further adapted to provide a customer-selectable hot spot within said visual image and to update a customer position responsive to selection of said hot spot.

12. The shopping mall browser as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said multimedia object presenter is adapted to present a sound clip representative of background sound within a mall or store interior.